

Message Text

PAGE 01 OSLO 00706 161754Z

43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 161145Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7829

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T OSLO 0706

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR NATO IC NO US

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S PENDING VISIT TO ICELAND

REF: STATE 30022

1. UPON RETURN FROM U.S., FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND ASKED DCM (SINCE AMBASSADOR WAS VISITING STAVANGER) TO BRIEF HIM ON STATUS OF KEFLAVIK TALKS, AS HE INDICATED HE WOULD IN REFTEL. AT FORMIN'S REQUEST, DCM LEFT WITH HIM, AT FEB 15 MEETING, TALKING POINT PAPER INCORPORATING REFTEL POINTS PLUS CERTAIN ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS ACQUIRED BY DCM DURING VISIT TO REYKJAVIK IN JANUARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS TO THOSE IN REFTEL:
(A) THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR KEFLAVIK; ANY ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS--E.G. IN SCOTLAND--WOULD BE AT LEAST 30 PERCENT LESS EFFECTIVE AND COST DOLS 100 MILLION TO ESTABLISH; (B) THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE TIME IS WORKING IN FAVOR OF AN AGREEMENT--E.G., GROWING REALIZATION IN ICELAND OF POTENTIAL COST OF TAKING OVER THE BASE (MAINTENANCE COSTS, IMPACT AND AIRLINE, ETC.); (C) BUT MAJOR PROBLEM REMAINS POLITICAL ONE OF THE EFFECT OF THE BASE ISSUE ON THE VIABILITY OF THE EXISTING COALITION; (D) BASE PLAYS A STABILIZING ROLE IN PROMOTING DETENTE, WHICH ASSUMES THE MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING E/W MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM INCLUDING THE ABILITY OF EACH SIDE TO MONITOR
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PAGE 02 OSLO 00706 161754Z

THE MILITARY ACTIVITY OF THE OTHER SIDE; (E) AS SOLZHENITZYN AFFAIR SHOWS, STALINIST HERITAGE STILL HANGS HEAVY OVER USSR. THE MAINTENANCE OF AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY POSTURE MUST REMAIN AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF E/W DETENTE POLICY.

3. FRYDENLUND SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER US ARGUMENTS ALONG WITH REPORTS SUBMITTED BY SPECIALISTS LIKE HOLST (REFTEL). HE REFERRED TO GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON ICELAND AND BASE NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH BOTH PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI AND HE DENIED ANY INTENTION OF APPLYING PRESSURE TO ICELAND (SEPTTEL). THINKING ALOUD, HE SAID HE THOUGHT HE WOULD NEED TO EXPLAIN TO ICELANDERS THAT BASE NEGOTIATIONS WERE AN INTERNAL AFFAIR IN WHICH HE HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING BUT HE FELT THEY SHOULD HAVE SOME APPRECIATION, IN REACHING THEIR CONCLUSION, OF HOW NORWAY LOOKS AT THE STRATEGIC POSITION OF ICELAND.
BYRNE

SECRET

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